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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

June 27, 2018

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Burke, Austin and Sawyer, a resolution concerning the life and memory of George Leighton.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Mayor

Very truly yours,

resolution

adopted by The City Council of the City of Chicago, Illinois

Aldermen Edward M. Burke, Carrie M. Austin, Roderick T. Sawyer and
resented by Mayor Rahm Emanuel OK June 27, 2018

The Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Judge George N. Leighton. Judge Leighton served the people of Chicago with dedication and distinction for more than six decades, a remarkable tenure; and

WHEREAS, George N. Leighton was born in 1912 as George Leitadi in Massachusetts. Growing up in a family of immigrants from the Cape Verde Islands, he was married to Virginia Leighton, nee Williams, in 1937. He was a lawyer, a judge, and a public servant. He was married to Virginia Leighton, nee Williams, in 1937; and

WHEREAS, George N. Leighton was a member of the United States Armed Forces during World War II, serving in the Asiatic Pacific Theater of Operations. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service. He was also a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Order of the Sons of the American Revolution.

After graduating from Harvard Law School, he served in the United States Army during World War II. He was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Order of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was also a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Order of the Sons of the American Revolution.

WHEREAS, George N. Leighton served bravely during World War II in the segregated 93rd Central Postal Directory. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service. He was also a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Order of the Sons of the American Revolution.

WHEREAS, After graduation from law school, George N. Leighton moved to Chicago and became a leading lawyer representing individuals fighting for fair housing and integrated schools; and

WHEREAS, George N. Leighton often took on cases pro bono, including traveling to the south to help protect voting rights in Alabama, ensure jury representation in Mississippi, and assist with other civil rights matters; and

WHEREAS, In 1960, Judge Leighton began his work with the judiciary, first serving as Master in Chancery for the Circuit Court of Cook County for four years, and then as a judge for five years with the Circuit Court of Cook County. In 1969, he became the first African American to hold the position of district appellate judge in Illinois, when he was appointed to serve on the First District Appellate Court; and

BE /T FURTHER RESOLVED. That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Judge George N. Leighton as a token of our sympathy and esteem.